

# OTTER NURSERIES, MOLES LANE, MARLDON, DEVON

(NGR SX 8730 6537)

## Results of an Archaeological Trench Evaluation

South Hams District Council Planning Reference:  
2062/17/FUL (Condition 22)

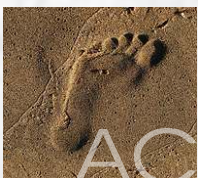
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Prepared by:  
Chris Caine

On behalf of:  
Otter Nurseries

Report No: ACD1989/2/0

Date: July 2019



archaeology

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# Historic Environment Record

<b>Civil Parish:</b> Marldon	<b>National Grid Reference</b> SX 8730 6537	<b>Number:</b>
<b>Subject:</b> Otter Nurseries, Moles Lane, Marldon, Devon: Results of an archaeological trench evaluation		<b>Photo attached:</b> Plates 1-3
<b>Planning Application no:</b> South Hams District Council Planning Ref. 2062/17/FUL (Condition 22)	<b>Recipient museum:</b> N/A	
<b>OASIS ID:</b> 341978	<b>Museum Accession no:</b> N/A	
<b>Contractor's reference number/code:</b> ACD1989	<b>Dates fieldwork undertaken:</b> 18 - 24th June 2019	
<p><b>Description of works</b></p> <p>An archaeological trench evaluation was carried out as part of the redevelopment of Otter Nurseries, Moles Lane, Marldon, Devon (<i>Fig. 1</i>). It consisted of the machine excavation of 14 trenches totalling 395m long by 2m wide. The site is located within the parish of Marldon to the south of Moles Lane, and northwest of the Gallows Gate roundabout on the A380. It is currently occupied by polytunnels, greenhouses and outdoor planting beds forming the growing area, and is separate from the public garden centre. The site is situated below the top of a north-south orientated ridge, on the northwest side of a dry valley. The topography of the area drops down from 140m aOD (above Ordnance Datum) along the northwest boundary down to 120m aOD at the south corner. The greenhouses in the southwest part of the site have been raised up on a terrace. The site is bounded on its northwest side by a tall historic stone-lined hedgebank, and on its southwest and southeast sides by tall trees planted on a modern large bank. The underlying solid geology comprises breccia and sandstone of the Torbay Breccia Formation (<a href="http://www.bgs.ac.uk">www.bgs.ac.uk</a>).</p> <p>The site is situated immediately to the east of a cropmark complex recorded from aerial photographs in 1996. This complex included a possible circular enclosure or ring ditch and a number of linear ditch features, but have been more recently interpreted as geological features (Devon HER ref. MDV62484). In addition, findspots of flint tools demonstrate prehistoric activity in the surrounding landscape.</p> <p><b>Results</b></p> <p>The trenches were positioned to provide sample coverage and where space was available within the complex of polytunnels, glasshouses and overgrown scrub (see <i>Fig. 1; Plates 1-3</i>). Across the site, natural brownish-red sandy loam subsoil was exposed at a depth of between 110mm and 520mm below the ground surface. This was overlain by a dark reddish-brown sandy loam subsoil, which in turn was overlain by a dark brownish-red sandy loam topsoil, except in Trenches 1, 2, 3 and 12 in the south part of the site where the overlying deposits had been removed and replaced with modern track metalling material. This latter material also capped the overlying deposit sequence in Trenches 8, 9, 10, 11 and 12. The topsoil was missing from Trench 4. There were no finds observed in the overlying deposits.</p> <p><b>Comment</b></p> <p>The trial trenches revealed no archaeological features, deposits or finds and this report represents the archive for the project.</p>		
<b>Recorder:</b> Chris Caine, AC archaeology		<b>Date sent to HER:</b> 17 July 2019



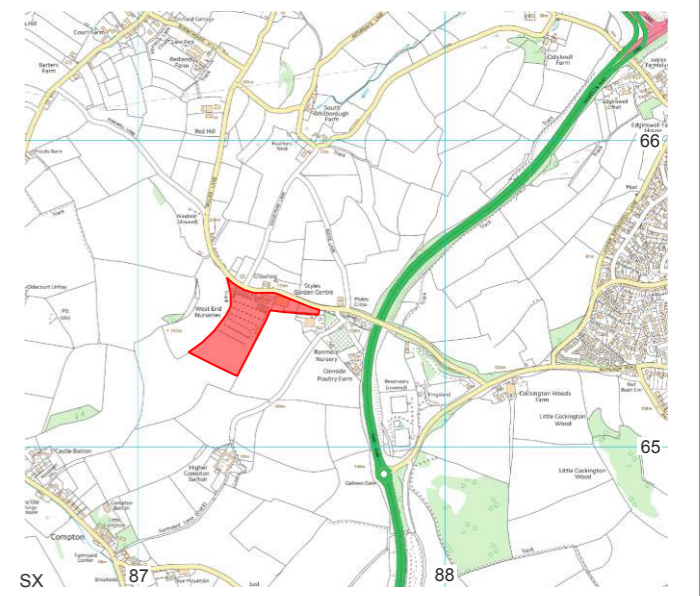


Based on plan supplied by Robinson Jary Architecture

No excavation works in this area



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**Legend**  
 Trenches 1-14





Plate 1: General view of the site in the vicinity of Trench 13, looking south



Plate 2: Trench 5, looking northeast  
(1m scale)



Plate 3: Trench 10, looking east (1m scale)

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